

REMARKS

In this amendment, claims 7-9 have been cancelled and claims 10-12 have been newly added. Claims 10-12 are now active in this application, of which claim 10 is independent.

Specification Objection

In the previous Office Action, the specification has been objected to for not stating that the present application is a CPA application that claims priority from its parent application 09/480,689.

MPEP 201.11 recites “A request for a continued prosecution application (CPA) filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) is *itself the specific reference* required by 35 U.S.C. §120 and 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2) to every application assigned the same application number identified in the request (Note: The CPA is assigned the same application number as the prior application.) In a CPA, a specific reference in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an application data sheet, to a prior application assigned the same application number *is not required and may not be made. Any such reference will be deleted*”.

Thus, it is Applicants’ understanding that the present application is not required to contain the specific reference to its prior application. However, if Applicants’ understanding is incorrect, please amend the specification as indicated in the foregoing “Specification Amendment” section. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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